

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 10 line 31 through page 11 line 3 as follows:

In step 305, issuing participant 102 and subscribing customer 106 preferably work together to create a messaging specification that defines a format for authorization requests and responses to be used in connection with the defined authorization service. As noted, the present system is intended to ~~be~~ support a wide variety of authorization services each of which may be defined as desired by issuing participant 102 and subscribing customer 106. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment, the messaging specification may define messages in any suitable format such as extensible markup language (XML), hypertext markup language (HTML), etc.

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 11 lines 30 through line 32 as follows:

1. Issuing participant 102 may ~~only~~ respond to a request for authorization concerning purchase of office supplies only if the request is received from a company that sells office supplies.

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 11 lines 33 through line 35 as follows:

2. Issuing participant 102 may ~~only~~ respond to a request for authorization concerning purchase of office supplies only if the request is received from a company on a list of approved suppliers established by subscribing customer 106.

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 12 lines 1 through line 3 as follows:

3. Issuing participant 102 may ~~only~~ respond to a request for authorization concerning purchase of office supplies only if the request is received from a particular company, e.g., XYZ Co.

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 12 lines 4 through line 6 as follows:

4. Issuing participant 102 may ~~only~~ respond to a request for authorization concerning purchase of office supplies only if the request is received from an individual with a title of "sales manager."

The Examiner is requested to amend the paragraph on page 12 lines 7 through line 9 as follows:

5. Issuing participant 102 may ~~only~~ respond to a request for authorization concerning purchase of office supplies only if the request is received from a particular individual employed by XYZ Co., e.g., Jane Doe.